

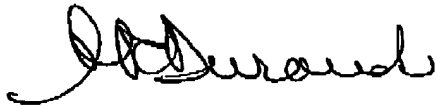
REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment issued on March 2, 2005, indicates that Claims 2 and 3 are not clear on dependency because the claim numbers have been deleted using strikethrough. The undersigned respectfully disagrees with the Notice because a new number 4 has also been added and underlined. Therefore, the new dependency is clearly indicated as required by the rules. A copy of the pertinent page is attached for the Office's reference.

It is noted that the rules require that double brackets be used when the extent of a strikethrough cannot be easily perceived, as in the case where the number 4 is included in the strikethrough. However, that is not the case when the number 4 is added in a claim and clearly underlined next to a number that has been deleted, especially when seen in the context of the deletion of the previous claim number.

Accordingly, the applicant respectfully declines to resubmit the Claim Amendments portion of the response dated February 22, 2005, and urges the Office to reconsider its request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio R. Durando', written in a cursive style.

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